

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /051 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3120

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: MRS. GANDHI ON FOREIGN DANGER

REF: STATE 305433

1. EMBASSY HAS PROVIDED ALL KEY QUOTES OR SUMMARIES OF MS GANDHI'S REMAKRS ON THE US IN NEW DELHI 17433 AND PRECEDING MESSAGES ON THIS SUBJECT. PROBLEM IS THAT SINCE PM IS SPEAKING IN HINDI MOST OF THE TIME AND WITHOUT PREPARED TEXT, REPORTERS VERIONS OF HER REMARKS VARY AND NO NEWSPAPER HAS CARRIED ANYTHING PURPORTING TONE "AUTHORITATIVE TEXT". EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED MEA TO PROVIDE TEXTS OF MS GANDHI'S REMAKRS AS WELL AS THOSE BY FONMIN CHAVAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND HAS MADE IT CLEAR THESE ARE SPECIFICALLY BEING REQUESTED FOR DEPARTMENT. RESPONSE HAS BEEN THAT SINCE SPEECHES ARE AT A PARTY FORUM, MEA DOES NOT HAVE ANY TEXTS, BUT WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN. WE DOUBT WE WILL EVER GET ANYTHING IN WRITING.

2. ONLY REFERENCES TO SECRETARY WERE THOSE IMPLIED IN HER REMARKS ON COUNTRIES WHICH GAVE LIP SERVICE TO NON-ALIGNMENT DEC. 30. FOLLOWING IS REPORT OF MRS GANDHI'S REMARKS ON DEC. 30 AS REPORTED IN CONGRESS PARTY RUN "NATIONAL HERALD" FROM ITS OWN CORRESPONDENT IN CHANDIGARH FOR CONTRAST WITH WIRESERVICE REPORTS PRIMARILY USED IN EMBASSY'S EARLIER REPORTING.

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3. "THE PM REFERRED TO THE HAPPENINGS IN BANGLADESH AND SAID THAT STABILITY AND PEACE IN THAT COUNTRY WAS DISTURBED BY THE INTERFERENCE OF EXTERNAL FORCES. THIS INTERFERENCE MUST STOP. SOME ASKED INDIA NOT TO INTERFERE IN THE AFFAIRS OF BANGLADESH WITHOUT ANY BASIS FOR SUCH AN ACCUSATION BUT THESE VERY FORCES HAD NO COMPUNCTION IN INTERFERING IN THE AFFAIRS OF ANGOLA.

4. "MRS. GANDHI WARNED THE PEOPLE AGAINST CONTINUED ATTEMPTS TO SABOTAGE THE POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT. 'WE ARE AGAINST ALL INTERFERENCE AND WE WANT TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH OUR NEIGHBORS BUT IF WE ARE ATTACKED WE MUST PREPARE TO FACE IT FULLY.' DENTE SHOULD NOT BE CONFINED TO EUROPE ALONE BUT EXTENDED BEYOND THOSE FRONTIERS TO ASIA ALSO.

5. "THE PM ALSO CAUTIONED PARTY MEN AGAINST THE FORCES OF SABOTAGE THAT WERE REARING THEIR HEAD IN THE COUNTRY AND WANTED TO UNDERMINE THE PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY. THESE FORCES THAT HAD GONE SEEMINGLY DORMANT IN THE WAKE OF THE EMERGENCY WERE STILL BUSY. THERE HAD BEEN A RAILWAY ACCIDENT WHILE ANOTHER WAS AVERTED."

6. FOLLOWING IS "NATIONAL HERALD'S" REPORT ON MS. GANDHI'S REMARKS ON FOREIGN POLICY DEC. 31: "SHE REFERRED TO THE POLICY OF SOME FOREIGN POWERS TO TOPPLE THE LEGITIMATELY CONSTITUTED GOVERNMENTS AND REPLACING THEM BY THEIR OWN PUPPETS--AS HAPPENED IN CHILE--AND SAID THT IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER SHE WAS ON THE SCENE OR NOT, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA WOULD NEVER TOLERATE SUCH INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THIS COUNTRY AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS INSIDE."

7. "MRS. GANDHI SAID THE COUNTRY FACED THE 'GRAVEST MOMENT OF PERIL' TO ITS FREEDOM IN THE WAKE OF THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL MACHINATIONS. THE FORCES WHO WANTED TO CREATE INSTABILITY IN THE SUBCONTINENT HAD ATTAINED SOME SUCCESS ELSEWHERE (BANGLADESH) AND AT THE MOMENT AN ATTEMPT WAS ON TO CREATE INSTABILITY IN OUR COUNTRY ALSO. THIS ATTEMPT STARTED IN JUNE LAST AND 'WE HAD TO EXERCISE UTMOST VIGILANCE AND CAUTION AND ACT IN TIME TO THWART THESE DESIGNS.' WHAT HAPPENED IN BANGLADESH AND WHAT ATTEMPTS WERE MADE IN INDIA HAD A DESIGN AND A PATTERN. THIS WAS PROVED BY THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS WHICH WAS NOT 'JUST COINCIDENTAL'. 'AS LONG AS I AM ALIVE, THE ATTEMPTS TO MAKE US DEVIATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FROM OUR CHOSEN PATH WILL NEVER BE TOLERATED AND THE PEOPLE OF INDIA WOULD RISE AS ONE MAN TO SET SUCH NEFARIOUS ATTEMPTS AT NAUGHT.' THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE ACCEPTED NATIONAL POLICIES HANDED DOWN TO THE COUNTRY BY ITS GREAT LEADERS NEVER WORRIED HER BUT WHAT CAUSED DOUBT WAS THE CONSTANT ENCOURAGEMENT THEY RECEIVED FROM THE PRESS AND THE TV ABROAD. IT WAS THE OPPOSITION THAT SET FORTH A CAMPAIGN AGAINST DEMOCRACY, PARLIAMENT AND LEGISLATURES. IT WAS THEY WHO FIRST RAISED THE CRY FOR CHANGING THE CONSTITU-

TION. IT WAS THEY WHO HURLED THE DIRTIEST INSULTS ON HER.

8. "THE PM MADE IT CLEAR IN UNEQUIVOCAL TERMS THAT NO INDIVIDUAL OR NATION COULD MAKE INDIA DEVIATE FROM HER POLICIES OF SOCIALISM AND NON-ALIGNMENT. 'WE WILL SHOW TO THE WORLD WHAT A DETERMINED CITIZEN OF INDIA CAN DO AND HOW STEADFAST HE WAS IN UPHOLDING THE PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES WHICH WERE RIGHT AND CORRECT IN THE MATTER OF MEANS AS WELL AS ENDS.'

9. "STRESSING THE NEED FOR CONSTANT VIGIL, SHE SAID THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE WHO WERE OUT TO EXPLOIT THE PARTY'S OR THE GOVERNMENT'S SINGLE LAPSE TO THEIR ADVANTAGE. THERE WERE PEOPLE READY TO POUNCE AT THE SLIGHTEST OPPORTUNITY. ALL THIS SHOULD BE EXPLAINED TO THE PEOPLE. THERE WAS SUCH DANGER TO OUR FREEDOM AS HAD NOT EXISTED BEFORE. AS THE COUNTRY GREW IN STRENGTH AND AS THE POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT GOT MORE AND MORE SUPPORT FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, THE CHALLENGE GREW MORE ACUTE. THE PM SAID THAT WHEN SHE TALKED OF THESE DANGERS SOME PEOPLE WANTED PROOF FROM HER. 'THE BURDEN OF PROOF LAY WITH THE PEOPLE WHO POSED SUCH A DANGER AND NOT US', SHE SAID. IT WAS ALSO OBVIOUS FROM WHAT HAD RECENTLY APPEARED IN THE US AND FRENCH PRESS.

10. "MRS GANDHI SAID THAT WHEN SHE TALKED OF OUTSIDE INFLUENCES, IT WAS NOT IN THE OLD COLONIAL SENSE BUT HOW SUCH FORCES TRIED TO INFLUENCE THE POLICIES. SOME FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS HAD TOLD HER THAT SHE WAS SAID TO BE INTOLERANT OF CRITICISM. HER REPLY WAS THAT HAD IT BEEN SO, HOW COULD SHE HAVE TOLERATED SO MUCH ABUSE AND FALSE ACCUSATIONS AND INSULTS. SHE HAD NOT SAID ANYTHING HARSH IN THE FACE OF THE DIRTY CAMPAIGN AGAINST HER."

11. COMMENT: DEPT WILL NOTE THAT THESE VERSIONS DIFFER SLIGHTLY FROM THOSE REPORTED EARLIER FROM WIRE SERVICES (AND TWO WIRE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SERVICES DIFFER SLIGHTLY FROM ONE ANOTHER). ESSENCE OF PM'S REMARKS, HOWEVER, IS CONSISTENT.
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